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PART I

Punjab Government Notifications and Orders

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(HEALTH - IV BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 14th March, 2022

No. 5/13/2015-4HB- IV/781.-Whereas the Governor of Punjab is satisfied that the State of Punjab is threatened with the outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease namely Influenza A H1N1 and that the ordinary provisions of law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose .Now , therefore , in exercise of the powers conferred under section 2.1 , 3 & 4 of the Epidemic Diseases Act . 1897 , the Governor of Punjab is pleased to make the following regulations namely:-

1. These regulations may be called **the Punjab Epidemic Diseases , Influenza A H1N1 Regulations, 2022** in continuation of the notification issued vide no. 5/13/2015-4HBIV/626-642 dated 02.03.2020.
2. In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires. " Epidemic Disease " means Influenza A H1N1.
3. All hospitals should have Flu Corners so that the suspected cases of ILI (Influenza like Illness) are screened at the earliest and movement of suspected case is restricted in order to prevent the further spread of the disease .
4. All hospitals (Govt. &Private) will follow the categorization of Influenza H1N1 issued by Govt . of India from time to time and available at the website of IDSP and NCDC (National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi).

Category - A

- Patients **with mild fever plus cough / sore throat** with or without body ache , headache , diarrhea and vomiting will be categorized as Category - A. They **do not require** Oseltamivir and should be treated for the symptoms mentioned above . The patients should be monitored for their progress and reassessed at 24 to 48 hours by the doctor .
- **No testing of the patient for H1N1 is required.**

- Patients should confine themselves at home and avoid mixing up with public and high risk members in the family .

Category - B

- (i) In addition to all the signs and symptoms mentioned under Category - A , if the patient has high grade fever and severe sore throat , may require home isolation and Oseltamivir;
- (ii) In addition to all the signs and symptoms mentioned under Category - A , individuals having one or more of the following high risk conditions shall be treated with Oseltamivir:
 - Children less than 5 years old ;
 - Pregnant women ;
 - Persons aged 65 years or older ;
 - Patients with lung diseases , heart disease , liver disease , kidney disease , blood disorders,diabetes , neurological disorders , cancer and HIV / AIDS :
 - Patients on long term cortisone therapy .
- **No tests for H1N1 Influenza is required for Category - B (i) and (ii) .**
- All patients of Category - B (i) and (ii) should confine themselves at home and avoid mixing with public and high risk members in the family .

Category - C

In addition to the above signs and symptoms of Category - A and B , if the patient has one or more of the following :

- Breathlessness , chest pain , drowsiness , fall in blood pressure , sputum mixed with blood , bluish discoloration of nails ;
- Irritability among small children , refusal to accept feed :
- Worsening of underlying chronic conditions .

All these patients mentioned above in Category-C require testing, immediate hospitalization and treatment.

5. All cases of ILI in Category B of Influenza H1N1 should be put on treatment as per protocol and guidelines of Govt. of India without waiting for the laboratory results of such cases .
6. All hospitals (Govt.&Private) will have to inform the Department of Health & Family Welfare. Punjab immediately about a case of ILI (Influenza Like Illness) falling in Category B Influenza H1N1 as per guidelines of categorization of Influenza H1N1 issued by Govt . of India .
 - a. The details of the nodal officers of State and District with their contact numbers and email address for reporting has been uploaded on website of Deptt . of Health and Family Welfare (health.punjab.gov.in)
7. All cases of Influenza A H1N1 whether suspected or confirmed should be kept in isolation to avoid any spread of the disease .
8. All hospitals (Govt . &Private) will have to inform the Department of Health and Family Welfare. Punjab immediately about a confirmed case of Influenza A H1N1 being reported in their institution and will have to initiate the patient on treatment as per guidelines of Govt . of India immediately.
 - a. The details of the nodal officers of State and District with their contact numbers and email address for reporting has been uploaded on website of Deptt . of Health and Family Welfare (pbhealth.gov.in)
9. The management of the Cat B and Cat C cases of Influenza A H1N1 will be done as per guidelines of Govt. of India.

10. Any private Laboratory or hospital willing to undertake the testing of Influenza A H1N1 will have to take permission of the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab prior to start testing. Civil Surgeon of each district will certify the capacity and capability of the laboratory for testing of H1N1 Influenza and permission will be granted as per conditions laid down by the Department of Health and Family Welfare .
 - a. All Govt and Private Hospitals / laboratories will have to ensure that the only samples of patients falling in Category C are tested .
 - b. All sample testing will be as per protocol of Govt . of India and as per directions issued from Department of Health & Family Welfare , Punjab from time to time .
 - c. *Private laboratories will be given time period of 7 days to apply for testing of H1N1 Influenza from issuing of this notification. Labs can apply to Civil Surgeon of the district where the laboratory is located for the same by simple application .*
11. The treating physician / doctor / laboratory in charge and in charge of hospital / laboratory will be responsible for abiding to this notification .
12. No person / institution or organization will use any print or media in any form for Influenza A H1N1 without prior permission of Department of Health & Family Welfare , Punjab.
13. No person / institution or organization will spread any information or material for management of Influenza A HINI without prior permission of Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab .
14. **Notice for disobeying the notification:** A committee under chair of Civil Surgeon will be constituted in each district which will have medical specialist , pediatrician , anesthetist and district epidemiologists as members to review any disobeying / deviation done by any person / institution or organization against regulation or order made under this act . If disobedience is proved , a notice will be issued by the Civil Surgeon of the concerned district indicating the offence irregularity conducted as per this notification with copy to Director Health Services Punjab. The reply of the person / institution or organization received against the notice will be reviewed by a Committee at State Level under chair of Director Health Services, Punjab which will include on deputy director. One assistant director and state programme officer IDSP.
15. **Powers of the State Committee:** If reply is not received within stipulated time of receipt of the notice or if the reply is found unsatisfactory by the state committee and it is confirmed that the person / institution or organization has disobeyed the regulations under this notification , the Department of Health and Family Welfare , Punjab will direct Civil Surgeon of the district to take action against the concerned person / institution or organization as per section 3 of Epidemic Disease Act and section 16 of these regulations .
16. **Penalty:** Any person / institution or organization disobeying any regulation or order made under this act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of Indian penal Code (45 of 1860). District Administration can penalize person / institution or organization found disobeying the regulations or orders made under this act .
17. **Protection to person acting under Act :** No suit or legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or in good faith intended to be done under this Act .
18. These regulations shall come into force at once and shall remain valid for two year from the date of publication of this notification.

Chandigarh

The 5th March, 2022

2732/12-2022/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar

RAJ KAMAL CHAUDHURI, IAS

Principal Secretary to Govt . of Punjab

Department of Health & Family Welfare